

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1. A method for determining spare capacity for a video and data network  
2 from a network element database comprising:  
3           receiving a request for spare capacity in the video and data network, wherein  
4 the request comprises a service area identifier;  
5           identifying equipment to check for spare capacity from the service area  
6 identifier;  
7           checking the network element database to determine if the identified  
8 equipment has spare data and video capacity; and  
9           if the equipment has spare data and video capacity, calculating spare video and  
10 data capacity for the equipment.

1           2. The method of claim 1, wherein the video and data network comprises  
2 a Digital Subscriber Line (xDSL) network.

1           3. The method of claim 1, wherein the video and data network comprises  
2 a Very high bit rate DSL (VDSL) network.

1           4. The method of claim 1, wherein calculating spare video/data capacity  
2 for the equipment comprises calculating a number of video and data ports available minus a  
3 number of video and data ports in use.

1           5. The method of claim 4, further comprising determining possible  
2 capacity for the equipment.

1           6. The method of claim 5, wherein possible capacity comprises possible  
2 video/data ports.

1           7. The method of claim 6, wherein calculating spare video/data capacity  
2 for the equipment comprises adding the possible video/data ports to the spare video/data  
3 capacity calculation.

1           8. The method of claim 4, further comprising determining a number of  
2 defective video/data ports.

1                   9.        The method of claim 8, wherein calculating spare video and data  
2 capacity for the equipment comprises subtracting the number of defective video/data ports  
3 from the spare video/data capacity calculation.

1                   10.      The method of claim 4, further comprising determining a number of  
2 held and pending video service orders for the service area identifier.

1                   11.      The method of claim 10, wherein calculating spare video and data  
2 capacity for the equipment comprises subtracting the number of held and pending video  
3 service orders from the spare video/data capacity calculation.

1                   12.      The method of claim 1, wherein checking the network element  
2 database to determine if the identified equipment has spare data and video capacity comprises  
3 checking if the identified equipment has spare virtual video/data capacity.

1                   13.      The method of claim 1, wherein checking the network element  
2 database to determine if the identified equipment has spare data and video capacity comprises  
3 checking if the identified equipment has spare physical video/data capacity.

1                   14.      The method of claim 4, further comprising determining a number of  
2 data only slots.

1                   15.      The method of claim 14, wherein calculating spare video and data  
2 capacity for the equipment comprises returning the number of data only slots in the spare  
3 capacity calculation.

1                   16.      The method of claim 1, further comprising checking the network  
2 element database to determine if the identified equipment telephony usage is at a maximum.